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PTO/SB/21 (09-06)

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Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	M03A445
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ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

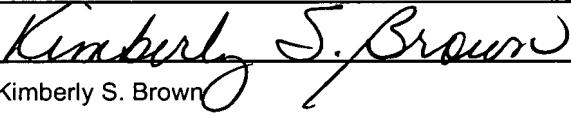
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	The BOC Group, Inc.		
Signature			
Printed name	David A. Hey		
Date	July 20, 2007	Reg. No.	32,351

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Attorney Docket: M03A445

Serial No.: 10/759,973

Filed: January 16, 2004

Confirmation No.: 8329

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908-771-1729

Registration Number, if applicable

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Itemized Listing of Attachments:

A Transmittal Form (PTO/SB/21), a Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pp.), and a Return Receipt Postcard

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Richard A. HOGLE, Donald P. SATCHELL Jr., Robin CLOUGH,
Robert DAWSON, David GAWLOWSKI

Serial No.: 10/759,973 Filed: January 16, 2004

Examiner: Ngoc Yen M. Nguyen Group Art Unit: 1754

Attorney Docket: M03A445 Confirmation No.: 8329

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DISPOSAL OF HYDROGEN FROM
FLUORINE GENERATION, AND FLUORINE GENERATORS INCLUDING
SAME

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated 22 June 2007 applicants make the following remarks.

The Examiner has required a restriction between the following groups of claims:

Group I, claims 1-15, 17 drawn to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 422, subclass 177+; and

Group II, claims 16, 18 drawn to a process for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid, classified in class 423, subclass 210+.

Appl. No. 10/759,973
Amdt. dated 07/20/2007
Reply to Office Action of 06/22/2007

With respect to the above restriction requirement, applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-15, 17 directed to an apparatus for disposal of hydrogen in a fluid.

This restriction requirement is traversed on the following grounds.

The subject matter of the two groups noted by the Examiner are related, i.e., both relate to disposal of hydrogen in a fluid. Such relationship suggests that there would be no undue burden on the Examiner in examining both sets of claims at the same time.

Because the life of a divisional application begins to run from the filing date of the parent application, all such related applications will necessarily expire on the same date. Therefore, it is unreasonable to continue to apply restriction practice to applications, for what appears to be solely the purpose of collecting additional filing and prosecution fees.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file divisional applications at a later date, on inventions not elected in this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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